Southeastern Michigan Jazz Association
Update
February 2015

Mr. B in SEMJA / KCH Club Series

The collaborative series between SEMJA and Kerrytown Concert House continues with Mr. B's Annual Birthday Bounce on Saturday, February 14, at 8:00 p.m. Pianist Mr B (Mark Braun) will be joined by guitarist Ralph Tope, who is emerging as one of the major exponents of soul/jazz guitar in the area. Mr. B is probably best known for playing his boogie and blues on the sunny streets of the Ann Arbor Art Fairs for years, but in fact he has enjoyed an internationally recognized career. He has collaborated with many major figures in blues and jazz, like J.C. Heard, Ray Bryant, Monty Alexander, John Hammond, and Duke Robillard.

SEMJA will help create a club feeling by serving beer, wine, and soft drinks for the event.

Scheduled next in the SEMJA / KCH Series is another local favorite, vocalist Susan Chastain on April 11.

Midge Ellis Passes Away

BY MICHAEL G. NASTOS

The Southeastern Michigan area lost a pioneer and promotional giant with the passing of Midge Ellis. She is best known as a prime jazz supporter, for her concerts with Stan Kenton at Clarenceville High School in Livonia, and founder of both the Detroit Jazz Festival and Michigan Jazz Festival.

Ma Jazz or Mama Jazz as she was known to her large circle of followers, Midge Ellis was raised in Corbin, Kentucky, listening to jazz on the radio while sitting in her father's lap. A trip to New Orleans cemented her love for the music, and followed up by becoming a booking agent in southern states.

Moving to Detroit in the 1960s, Midge was able to convince the powers at Clarenceville that a jazz series was a viable option in relation to the night club or concert scene. Her shows in the '70s and '80s are legendary, working with Kenton, Gene Krupa, Buddy Rich, the Count Basie Orchestra, Don Ellis, Maynard Ferguson, Chuck Mangione, and other mainstream to traditional jazz stars.

Midge worked at Schoolcraft College well before her involvement with the Michigan Jazz Festival. It started in 1971, where she was on their Cultural and Public Affairs Committee. In 1974 she was on staff as a programming assistant in the Community Services and Student Activities division. She held a variety of positions at Schoolcraft, including Special Activities and Conference Coordinator, Assistant to the Director of College Relations, and Coordinator of Special Events, the job from which she retired in 1991.

As a founding member, along with Kenn Cox, Don Lupp, Clarence Baker, and the organizers of the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, the Montreux/Detroit Jazz Festival was born in 1980. She also collaborated with John Trudell and Emil Moro, to start up the Michigan Jazz Festival, initially at Freedom Hill in Sterling Heights in 1996, then to the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills, and at Schoolcraft College in Livonia since 1999.

Many condolences were offered on Facebook, particularly through the page of her son Gary "Shadowhawk" Ellis. Among those were SEMJA and Michigan Jazz Festival Board Member, and Schoolcraft Music Department Chair Barton Polot,

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Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe

is proud to announce its
Schedule of Performers
for February 2015:

Straight Ahead
Tad Weed Trio
Barbara Morrison
Spencer Barefield Quartet

Every Tuesday night 6:00pm – 9:00pm.
No cover.
The Charles Boles Quartet

For more information visit:
DirtyDogJazz.com

The best Jazz and Cuisine is at the Dirty Dog!
Lunch menu featuring a great selection
of burgers, sandwiches, flatbread,
pizzas and entré salads.

Reservations highly recommended.
For reservations call:

313-882-5299

Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe

97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

Randy Napoleon / Peter Bernstein and others to Kerrytown Concert House

We are fortunate that Ann Arbor native Randy Napoleon divides his time these days between New York City and his hometown. He recently was appointed to the jazz faculty at MSU, where another great guitarist Peter Bernstein is on the visiting faculty. The two will join on stage at Kerrytown Concert House at 8:00 p.m. on February 27. Bernstein is by now a veteran in jazz circles, having played with the likes of Sonny Rollins, Bobby Hutcherson, Diana Krall, Lee Konitz and Jimmy Cobb since the late 1980s. He recently released a solo CD recorded live at Small's.

Bernstein and Napoleon will also perform at the Detroit Groove Society the following day at 8:00 p.m. The Groove Society presents house concerts at 6650 Torybrooke Circle, West Bloomfield. Please call 248-703-6301 for more information.

KCH continues its Edge series in February. A Scandinavian free jazz group, Atomic, will concertize on February 12 (8:00 p.m.). The group has been together for ten years and has received a Norwegian GRAMMY for their *There's A Hole in the Mountain* album. Bassist Ingebrigt Haker Flaten and drummer Paal Nilssen-Love have visited Ann Arbor before, but the others are new to the area: saxophonist Fredrik Ljungkvist,trumpeter Magnus Broo, and pianist Havard Wilk. Broo has long been recognized as one of Sweden's most promising trumpeters in many styles of jazz.

On February 28 clarinetist James Falzone's Renga, an all-star ensemble from Chicago, will visit. The group includes five fellow clarinetists, all luminaries in improvised music: Ken Vandermark, Keefe Jackson, Jason Stein, Ben Goldberg, and Ned Rothenberg, most of whom also double on saxophones. This newly formed group should fit perfectly on the intimate stage of KCH.

The Concert House is located on 415 N. 4th Ave. in the Kerrytown Market area in Ann Arbor. Please call 734-769-2999 for reservations.

Joey DeFrancesco Plays Cliff Bell's

The very dynamic organist Joey DeFrancesco will play Cliff Bell's in downtown Detroit on February 19. DeFrancesco comes to the area every year and always draws a big crowd. He is one of the most impressive of organists around, he has marvelous technique and swings like mad. So if you have not had the chance to see him in a club setting, go see him!

Barbara Morrison Returns to Detroit

Vocalist Barbara Morrison was a great success at this year's Detroit Jazz Festival. She returns to the area with a performance at the Dirty Dog Jazz Café in Grosse Pointe Farms February 13–14. Morrison is a marvelous performer of both blues and jazz and is a perennial audience favorite.

University of Michigan Jazz Day February 14

The University of Michigan will offer Jazz Day on Saturday, February 14 which is free and open to the public, no pre-registration is required. The day includes masterclasses, jam sessions, and concerts and takes place on the University's North Campus around the School of Music.

The program is as follows:

2:00-3:00 Earl V. Moore Building • Masterclasses with U-M Jazz Faculty: Andrew Bishop, Benny Green, Michael Gould, Robert Hurst, Bill Lucas, Dennis Wilson

3:15-4:15 Earl V. Moore Building • Jam Sessions for Students

4:30-5:00 Stamps Auditorium • Q & A about U-M Jazz Program

5:00-6:00 Stamps Auditorium • Concert with U-M Jazz Faculty

Mardi Gras in Windsor

The Speakeasy Quartet with Dave Bennett (clarinet),Mike Karloff (piano), Mike Karoub (cello) and Hugh Leal (guitar) will celebrate with an "Early Mardi Gras" concert. For the third year in a row special guest will be Dave Tatrow, the ace New Orleans/ Dixieland trumpeter, coming from Flint. The concert takes place on Sunday, February 8, at 2:30 p.m. (doors open at 2:00 p.m.), Mackenzie Hall, 3277 Sandwich St. Windsor, four blocks south of Ambassador Bridge. Tickets in advance available from the hall or phone (519) 255-7600 for credit card phone orders.

The Friends of the Court are sponsors of this event will be selling goodies and beverages at intermission.

Stanko Returns

Poland's well-known trumpeter Tomasz Stanko most recently played Ann Arbor backed by a trio of young Polish players. He will now come back here with an all-star group: alto saxophonist Tim Berne (who has led several groups of his own), bassist John Hebert (who recently played Edgefest) and the endlessly inventive drummer Jim Black. Stanko is a Miles Davis influenced player who records for ECM and is considered one of Europe's main contributions to post-bop jazz. The quartet will play the Mendelssohn Theatre on the University of Michigan campus February 5 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please go to *ums.org.*

WEMU 89.1

The Choice for NPR… news, jazz and blues.

Schedule

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
5							
6	MORNING EDITION NPR news, informTation, and public affairs Local news with David Fair					JAZZ24	
7							
8						WEEKEND with Scott Simon	WEEKEND EDITION
9	89.1 JAZZ with Linda Yohn						
10						THIS AMERICAN LIFE	SUNDAY BEST with Nik Thompson
11						WAIT, WAIT… DON'T TELL ME!	
12						TED RADIO HOUR	
1	89.1 JAZZ with Michael Jewett					FROM MEMPHIS TO MOTOWN with Wendy Wright	GROOVEYARD with Chrysta Cherrie
2							
3							IN CROWD with Jessica Webster
4	ALL THINGS CONSIDERED NPR news, information & public affairs					THE ROOTS MUSIC PROJECT with Jeremy Baldwin	
5							BIG CITY BLUES CRUISE
6							
7	JAZZ24					CUBAN FANTASY	MOUNTAIN STAGE
8							
9						GLOBAL VILLAGE	NEW JAZZ ARCHIVE
10							
11							
12							
1							
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National Public Radio
Eastern Michigan University

jazz events
February

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ATTENTION all venue owners, musicians, and listeners
Please let us know about upcoming jazz events in the area!

- Write us at SEMJA
  712 East Ann St.
  Ann Arbor,MI 48104-1502
- Phone us at 734-668-7470
- Submit information online at *www.semja.org/submit*

We will include notices if they reach us by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

The Ark
www.theark.org
316 South Main St.
ANN ARBOR 248-645-6666

FEBRUARY

5	8:00	Frank Vignola and Vinny Raniolo
11	8:00	Occidental Gypsy
15	7:30	The Jeremy Kittel Band
17	8:00	Ladysmith Black Mambazo
18	8:00	Sister Sparrow and the Dirty Birds

Baker's Keyboard Lounge
www.theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com
20510 Livernois
DETROIT 313-345-6300

ONGOING

Sun	8:00	Randall Poindexter Musician Appreciation Day
Tue	8:00	313 The Live Experience
Wed	8:00	OGD — with Rod Gibbs, Perry Hughes, Gene Dunlap
Thu	8:00	B Williams Experiment

Beans and Cornbread
www.beanscornbread.com
29508 Northwestern Highway
SOUTHFIELD 248-208-1680

ONGOING

Sun	Noon	Sheila Landis, Rick Matle

Bert's Marketplace
www.bertsentertainment.com
2727 Russell (in the Eastern Market)
DETROIT 313-567-2030

ONGOING

Thu	8:30	Open Jam with RGB Trio (Ralphe Armstrong, Gayelynn McKinney, Bill Meyer)

Bier Stube
bierstubetoledo.com
5333 Monroe
TOLEDO 419-841-7999

ONGOING

Wed	7:00	Ragtime Rick and the Chefs of Dixieland

Black Lotus Brewing Company
www. blacklotusbrewingco.com
1 E. 14 Mile
CLAWSON 248-577-1878

ONGOING

Mon	9:00	Open Mic — with Brando
Tue	9:00	Music Brazilian

Blue Goose Inn
www.bluegooseinn.net
28911 Jefferson between 11 & 12 Mile
ST. CLAIR SHORES 586-296-0950

ONGOING

Wed	8:00	Open Jam with various bands

Blue Nile Restaurant
South Fifth and East Washington Streets
ANN ARBOR 734-255-3371

ONGOING

Fri	6:00	Louis Johnson, Will Austin
Sat	6:00	Louis Johnson, Will Austin

Cadieux Café
www.cadieuxcafe.com
4300 Cadieux Rd.
DETROIT 313-882-8560

FEBRUARY

5	8:30	Riverboat Ramblers
26	8:30	The Jazz Merchants

ONGOING

Sun	10:00	Soul Jazz Sunday

Callahan's Music Hall
www.atcallahans.com
2105 South Blvd.
AUBURN HILLS 248-858-9508

FEBRUARY

4	7:30	JoAnne Shaw Taylor
6	8:00	Mississippi Heat
7	8:00	Sonny Moorman
14	8:00	Kinsey Report
18	7:30	John Nemeth
21	8:00	Kelly Richey
27	8:00	Commander Cody

Canterbury House
www.canterburyhouse.org
721 East Huron St.
ANN ARBOR 734-665-0606

ONGOING

Sun	5:00	Quartex Jazz Mass with afterglow

Cariera's Cucina Italiana Ristorante
www.carieras.com/dearborn
6565 North Telegraph
DEARBORN HEIGHTS 313-278-4060

ONGOING

Fri	7:00	Mike Gabriel
Sat	7:00	Mike Gabriel

Cliff Bells
www.cliffbells.com
2030 Park Ave. at West Adams
DETROIT 313-961-2543

FEBRUARY

6	9:00	Alex Levine Group — with Francois Moutin, Marcus Elliot, Ian Finkelstein
7	9:30	Alex Levine Group
8	6:00	Southeastern Music Academy Jam — with Sean Dobbins
12	8:00	Stephane Wrembel
13	9:00	Clif Wallace Quintet — featuring Meagan McNeal
14	9:30	Clif Wallace Quintet
15	6:00	Occidental Gypsy
19	8:00	Joey DeFrancesco
21	9:30	RJ Spangler Organ Quintet
22	6:00	WSU Open Jam — with Chris Colllins, Jacob Schwant, Sam Harris, Vincent Evangelista
27	9:00	Dirty Bourbon River Show
28	9:30	Dirty Bourbon River Show

ONGOING

Sun	Noon	Jarrod Champion
Tue	7:00	Marcus Elliot Quartet — with Mike Malis, Ben Rolston, Julian Allen
Wed	8:30	Glenn Tucker Organ Trio
Sat	6:00	Taylor Pierson Trio

Club 54
Leland Hotel, 400 Bagley
DETROIT 313-962-2300

ONGOING

Tue	10:00	Jam — with Greg Cook & Prophesy, with Jim David, Djallo Djakate

Club 54
nightclub54.com
37722 Van Dyke
STERLING HEIGHTS 586-795-0054

ONGOING

Thu	7:00	[1st, 3rd] Gary Greenfelder Orchestra

Commonwealth Club
www.commonwealthclubmi.com
30088 Dequindre Rd.
WARREN 586-751-9560

ONGOING
Thu 7:00 [3rd] Riverboat Ramblers — with Patrick MacCarroll

Concorde Inn Forestre Banquet Center
1919 Star Batt Dr.
ROCHESTER HILLS 248-594-1211

FEBRUARY
15 3:00 Mardi Gras Concert: Dave Tatrow All Stars — with Dave Bennett, Keith DeWitt, Bill Meyer, Doug Cobb, Bill Bolle

Creekside Grill & Bar
5827 Jackson Rd.
ANN ARBOR 734-827-2737

ONGOING
Sun 6:30 [4th] II-V-I Orchestra, David Swain, director, with Patty O'Connor, vocals

Dakota Inn
www.dakota-inn.com
17324 John R
DETROIT 313-867-9722

ONGOING
Thu 7:30 [3rd] Kerry Price

Degage Jazz Café
301 River Road
MAUMEE OH 419-794-8205

FEBRUARY
5 7:30 Damen Cook
6 7:30 Gene Parker
7 7:30 Gene Parker
12 7:30 Cliff Murphy & Mike Whitty
13 7:30 Paul VornHagen
14 7:30 Zac Kreuz
19 7:30 Johnny Burt
20 7:30 Ruth Nichols
21 7:30 Lori LeFevre
26 7:30 Hector Mendoza
27 7:30 Cynthia Kay Bennett
28 7:30 Straight Up

ONGOING
Tue 7:00 Gene Parker & Friends
Wed 7:00 Gene Parker & Friends

Detroit Groove Society
6650 Torybrooke Circle
WEST BLOOMFIELD 248-703-6301

FEBRUARY
28 8:00 Randy Napoleon & Peter Bernstein Duo

Detroit Institute of Arts
www,dia.org
5200 Woodward Ave.
DETROIT 313-833-4005

FEBRUARY
6 7:00 Motown Legends Gospel Choir — with Al Chisholm, Mark Scot, Joan Belgrave
13 7:00 Marion Hayden Ensemble — featuring Safell Gardner
27 7:00 Harriet Tubman: the Band — with Brandon Ross, JT Lewis, Melvin Gibbs

Dirty Dog Jazz Café
www.dirtydogjazz.com
97 Kercheval
GROSSE POINTE FARMS 313-882-5299

FEBRUARY
4–7 Straight Ahead
11–12 Tad Weed Trio
13–14 Barbara Morrison
18–21 Spencer Barefield Quartet
shows at 6:00 and 8:30
additional 10:30 shows on Friday & Saturday

ONGOING
Tue 5:00 Charles Boles Quartet

Eagles Aerie #3607
141 Schroeder Park Dr.
HOWELL 517-548-1630

ONGOING
Sun 3:00 [3rd] The Blue Notes, Thomas Halm director

The Earle
www.theearle.com
121 West Washington
ANN ARBOR 734-994-0211

ONGOING
Tue 7:00 various pianists / guitarists
Wed 7:00 Jake Reichbart
Thu 7:00 various pianists / guitarists
Fri 8:00 Rick Burgess Trio
Sat 8:00 Rick Burgess Trio

Elks Pratt Lodge
220 West Sunset Rd.
ANN ARBOR 734-761-7172

ONGOING
Thu 6:00 Dan Bennett Ensemble
Fri 6:00 Tim Haldeman Trio

Fusion Liquefaction Lounge
38 St Clair St.
TOLEDO, OH 419-243-8224

ONGOING
Wed 7:00 Nicole Heitger, Ray Heitger, Bob Miller

Gandy Dancer
www.muer.com/gandydancer.html
401 Depot St.
ANN ARBOR 734-769-0592

ONGOING
Sun 10 am Ingrid Racine Quartet

Harbor House
www.harborhousemi.com
440 Clinton St.
DETROIT 313-967-9900

ONGOING
Thu 10:00 Paul Carey Trio — with Mark LoDuca Sr, Max Bauhof

Hotel St Regis
www.hotelstregisdetroit.com
3071 West Grand Blvd.
DETROIT 313-873-3000

ONGOING
Fri 8:00 Alexander Zonjic
Sat 8:00 Alexander Zonjic

Jenuwine Cigar Factory
44791 Schoenherr Rd.
STERLING HEIGHTS 586-997-1731

ONGOING
Tue 7:00 Michele Ramo Quartet — with Danny Patrona, plus guests
Thu 7:00 Michele Ramo
Fri 8:00 Michele Ramo Trio — with Danny Patrona, plus guests
Sat 7:00 Michele Ramo Duo, plus guests

Kerrytown Concert House
www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com
415 North Fourth Ave.
ANN ARBOR 734-769-2999

FEBRUARY
12 8:00 Atomic — with Ingebrigt Haker Flaten, Magnus Broo, Paal Nilssen-Love, Fredrik Ljungkvist
14 8:00 **SEMJA / KCH Club Series Mr B's Annual Birthday Bounce — with Ralph Tope**
27 8:00 Randy Napoleon & Peter Bernstein
28 8:00 James Falzone's Renga — with Ken Vandermark, Keefe Jackson, Jason Stein, Ben Goldberg, Ned Rothenberg

LaMusique
www.hotelstregisdetroit.com/dining.html
St Regis Hotel, 3071 West Grand Blvd.
DETROIT 313-873-3000

ONGOING
Fri 8:15 Jam — with Karen Fox & Jerome Clark Trio

Leonardo's
U-M North Campus
ANN ARBOR 734-647-6838

ONGOING
Thu 8:30 Jazz Jam Session

Libby's Jazz Club
www.libbysjazzclub.com
128 West Michigan Ave.
JACKSON 517-240-4236

ONGOING
Wed 8:00 [2nd] John Dana, Trent Harris, Dan Palmer, Randy Saunders, and jam

Mackenzie Hall
3277 Sandwich St.
4 blocks south of Ambassador Bridge
WINDSOR, ONT 519-255-7600

FEBRUARY
8 2:30 Mardi Gras Concert: The Speakeasy Quartet — with Dave Bennett, Hugh Leal, Mike Karoub, Mike Karloff, Dave Tatrow

Maple Theater Café
4135 West Maple Rd.
BLOOMFIELD 248-855-9091

FEBRUARY
19 6:00 Dennis Coffey Trio

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Manhattan's Restaurant
www.manhattanstoledo.com
1516 Adams St.
TOLEDO, OH 419-243-6675

ONGOING
Tue 10:00 Jam — with Tom Turner
Thu 10:00 Quick Trio

Marge's Bar & Grill
www.margesbar.com
15300 Mack Ave.
GROSSE POINTE PK. 313-881-8895

ONGOING
Thu 7:00 [2nd, 4th] Marge's Bar Band — with Jim Wyse, Anthony Stanco, Terry Kimura, John Hammer, Bill Bolle, Bob Pinterich

Melange
melangebistro.com
314 South Main St.
ANN ARBOR 734-222-0202

ONGOING
Thu 8:00 Doug Horn Trio — with Jeff Kressler, Paul Keller / Kurt Krahnke, Cary Kocher

Mendelssohn Theater
University of Michigan Campus
ANN ARBOR 734-763-1085

FEBRUARY
5 7:30 Tomasz Stanko — with Tim Berne, John Hebert, Jim Black

Metropolitan United Methodist Church
www.metroumc.org/rush
8000 Woodward Ave.
DETROIT 313-875-7407

ONGOING
Tue 5:00 5 O'clock Rush Concert Series

Motor City Wine Bar
608 Woodward Ave., 2nd Floor
DETROIT 313-483-7283

ONGOING
Wed 10:00 Skeeto Valdez Funhouse Jam Session — with Kris Kurzowa, Phil Whitfield, Damon Warmack
Thu 9:00 Mike Jellick Trio

Music Hall
350 Madison
DETROIT 313-963-2366

FEBRUARY
13 8:00 Maysa — with Pieces of a Dream

Jazz Café at Music Hall
350 Madison
DETROIT 313-887-8501

9 8:00 The Hot Sardines — with Evan "Bibs" Palazzo, Miz Elizabeth
9 10:00 The Hot Sardines

Music Suite
2218 Airport Highway
TOLEDO, OH 419-381-9137

ONGOING
Thu 9:30 Eric Brazier & The Truth jam session

Nikola's
www.nikolasbbq.com
25225 Telegraph Rd.
SOUTHFIELD 248-355-4695

ONGOING
Thu 7:00 [2nd] Don Swindell Quartet
Thu 7:00 [others] Jerry McKenzie Trio, plus guest

1917 American Bistro
www.1917americanbistro.com
19416 Livernois
DETROIT 313-728-2001

ONGOING
Fri 8:00 [except 4th] Brad Shearer Duo — with Sean Harris

Northern Lights Lounge
660 West Baltimore St.
DETROIT

ONGOING
Tue 8:00 Dennis Coffey — with Damon Warmack, Steve Adams

Old Town Tavern
122 West Liberty St.
ANN ARBOR 734-662-9291

FEBRUARY
3 8:00 Sam Genson Trio
10 8:00 Tracy Kash Thomas Duo
24 8:00 Crozier/Schunk Duo

Oliver House — Mutz
www.OH-Mutz.com
27 Broadway
TOLEDO, OH 419-243-1302

ONGOING
Thu 7:30 Gene Parker Trio — with Jeff Halsey, Damen Cook

Onyx Steakhouse and Bar
208 West Fifth St.
ROYAL OAK 248-543-6911

FEBRUARY
6 8:00 Jimmy Smith Quartet — featuring Beth Stalker
7 8:00 Soul Cycle
13 8:00 Jimmy Smith Quartet — featuring Sarah Barnes D'Angelo
14 8:00 Russ Miller Quintet — featuring Jeannine Miller
20 8:00 Jimmy Smith Quartet — featuring Beth Stalker
21 8:00 Doug Horn Trio — featuring Sunny Wilkinson, Kurt Krahnke, Cary Kocher
27 8:00 Kris Kurzawa Quartet — featuring Liz Mervak
28 8:00 Bob Mervak Trio

Peabody's
peabodysrestaurant.com
15 Mile and Woodward
BIRMINGHAM 248-644-5222

ONGOING
Fri 8:00 various
Sat 8:00 various

Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325
41700 Ann Arbor Rd.
PLYMOUTH 734-453-1780

FEBRUARY
24 7:00 Dennis Tini Trio — with April Tini, Ray Tini, Dave Taylor

Ravens Club
www.theravensclub.com
207 South Main St.
ANN ARBOR

ONGOING
Sun 8:00 Heather Black Project — with Heather Schwartz, Ingrid Racine, Mike Malis, Josef Deas, Jesse Kramer

Rec' Bowl
www.TheRecBowl.com
40 Crocker Blvd.
MT. CLEMENS 586-468-7746

FEBRUARY
28 6:00 Dave Bennett Quartet — with Arlene McDaniel, Ed Fedewa, Doug Cobb

Roberts Riverwalk Hotel
www.detroitriverwalkhotel.com
1000 River Place Drive (at Detroit River)
DETROIT

ONGOING
Wed 7:00 [1st, 3rd] Ben's Friends Jazz Orchestra

Rockefeller's Oyster Bar and Grill
15402 Mack Ave.
GROSSE POINTE PARK 313-626-5000

ONGOING
Wed 6:00 Paul Carey, Mark LoDuca, John Barron

Rush Street
314 South Main St.
ANN ARBOR 734-913-0330

ONGOING
Fri 7:00 [except 1st] Dan Bennett / Tim Haldeman Quartet

Sakana Sushi Lounge
22914 Woodward Ave.
FERNDALE 248-336-2555

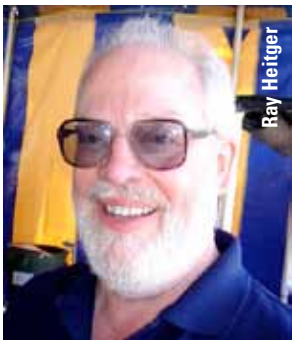
ONGOING
Thu 8:00 [4th] Charlie Miller Quartet

Schoolcraft College
www.schoolcraft.edu/music
VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty
LIVONIA 248-474-2720

FEBRUARY
18 Noon Gene Parker Quartet

Shield's
25101 Telegraph Rd.
SOUTHFIELD 248-476-2674

FEBRUARY
7 1:00 TNT Big Band — with Renee King Jackson
21 1:00 Ray Heitger Cakewalkin Jass Band — featuring Nicole Heitger



The Sodbuster
www.sodbusterbar.com
Haymarket Square, 5758 North Main St.
SYLVANIA OH 419-517-1045

ONGOING
Wed 8:00 Ragtime Rick and the Chefs of Dixieland

Sports Channel Bar
www.sportschannelscs.com
25419 Jefferson
ST CLAIR SHORES 586-296-0950

ONGOING
Thu 7:30 [1st] Gabby and Ron Rosolino, Tom Ploeger, Dennis DeCello, Jerry Neeley

Steinway Piano Gallery
www.steinwaypianogalleryofdetroit.com
2700 E West Maple Rd. (at M-5)
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP 248-560-9200

ONGOING
Mon 7:00 Sessions with Cliff Monear Trio — with Jeff Pedraz, Scott Kretzer

Stone House Bar
thestonehousebar.tripod.com
19803 Ralston near State Fair
DETROIT 313-891-3333

ONGOING
Sat 10:00 Blues bands

TV's Grand Event
www.tvsgrandevent.com
2651 2651 W. Jefferson
TRENTON 734-671-5676

ONGOING
Wed 6:30 [1st] Ron Kischuk Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band

UDetroit Café
Dan Good Pizza, 1427 Randolph
DETROIT 313-962-0660

ONGOING
Thu 8:00 [last] Jump and Swing with the MillionAires — with Steve Wood
Fri 7:00 Ralphe Armstrong Show

Vinology
310 South Main St
ANN ARBOR 734-222-9841

FEBRUARY
5 8:00 Paul Keller Trio
12 8:00 GFK Trio
19 8:00 Medium Rare Jazz Trio
26 8:00 Global Jazz Project

The Whitney
www.thewhitney.com
4421 Woodward Ave.
DETROIT 313-832-5700

ONGOING
Thu 4:00 Louis Johnson — with Will Austin
Fri 7:00 Alan Barnes Trio

Zal Gaz Grotto Club
www.zalgaz.org
2070 West Stadium Blvd.
ANN ARBOR 734-663-1202

ONGOING
Sun 5:00 Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings (PORK)
Mon 7:30 Paul Keller Orchestra
Tue 6:00 Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band

Upcoming Jazz Events

MARCH

1	Bela Fleck • Ark, Ann Arbor
1	Harry Connick, Jr. • Cobb Great Hall, East Lansing
12–13	Bill Frisell • Mendelssohn Thetre, Ann Arbor
15	Women in Jazz — with Marion Hayden, Ellen Rowe, Ingrid Racine, Nicole Patrick plus others • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
18	Buddy Guy and Ana Popovic • Ark, Ann Arbor
20	Wayne Shorter Quartet • Orchestra Hall, Detroit
25	Sheila Landis: Brazilian Love Affair • Schoolcraft College, Livonia
26	Steve Wilson Quartet — with Orrin Evans, Ugonna Okegwo, Bill Stewart • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor

APRIL

4	Gilberto Gil • Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor
4	Andrew Bishop / Gerald Cleaver / Tim Flood • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
11	**SEMJA / KCH Club Series** **Susan Chastain — with Phil DeGreg, Paul Keller • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor**
16	Chick Corea & Herbie Hancock • Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor
17	John & Gerald Clayton Duo • Orchestra Hall, Detroit
17	Oakland University Jazz Band — with Steve Wood, Michael Zaporski • Varner Recital Hall, Oakland University
18	Michael Malis solo piano • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
19	Michigan Jazz Festival Fundraiser: Terry Lower and Tad Weed • Schoolcraft College, Livonia
20	Schoolcraft College Jazz Band • Schoolcraft College, Livonia
21	Trevor Watts-Veryan Weston Duo • Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor
29	Cecile McLorin Salvant • Pasant Theatre, East Lansing

Membership

Renewals

Mitch and Carol Fleisher

The Southeastern Michigan Jazz Association

(SEMJA) was formed in 1987 for the purpose of promoting understanding and appreciation of jazz as an art form. The organization is comprised of professional musicians, jazz scholars, jazz writers, club owners, broadcasters and listeners. The organization operates through a Board and with a volunteer staff.

Inquiries

All mail should be sent to
SEMJA, 712 East Ann St.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1502
For phone messages
call: 734.668.7470
email: *semja@semja.org*

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Publication

The *SEMJA Update* is published monthly and sent to members at no cost. It is edited by Lars Bjorn and Piotr Michalowski with additional assistance from Barton Polot (production editor), Margot Campos (layout), Lynn Hobbs, and Marcel Niemiec.

SEMJA Board Meeting

There will be a SEMJA Board Meeting on Thursday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m. The location is 2926 Shady Lane, off Packard adjacent to Stone School Rd. on the south side of Ann Arbor. For more information or directions, please call 734-668-7470. All members are invited to participate.

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Remembering Alberta Adams

BY R J SPANGLER

My friend Alberta Adams was 97 when she passed away this past Christmas morning. I am lucky enough to say that I was her manager, bandleader & drummer for over twenty years. She was born in July, 1917, in Indianapolis to an alcoholic mother and moved to Detroit as a child and was raised by an aunt. Alberta started her entertainment career in Detroit's Black Bottom district, working as a tap dancer in her early 20s and getting her break as a singer when called to fill in for an ailing headliner Kitty Stephenson at Club B & C.

She became a regular at clubs around town in the 1940s, was eventually discovered by Chess Records and cut several singles with the Chicago label in Detroit at United Sound. She had one single on Berry Gordy's Thelma Records and was featured on a TJ Fowler single on the Savoy label. She toured nationally with folks like Louis Jordan, T-Bone Walker and her good friend Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, and also as a blues duo called the Bluesettes with her partner Chubby Newsome, with the Tiny Bradshaw Orchestra.

Her touring days were well behind her by the time we hooked up and she was working here and there around Detroit, with various local blues bands. I was able to get her signed to Ron Levy's Cannonball Records, her first recordings since the 1960s. This led to tours throughout the U.S. and Canada — coast to coast in both countries and as far north as Montreal and as far south as Key West. After two fine CDs for Cannonball, I put out a number of her recordings on my label, Eastlawn Records.

Alberta had a ball. She was never grouchy, never short with anybody at a gig, always happy to meet people and say thank you. We would sometimes drive long periods of time, eight to ten hours in a van, and she'd get up on that stage and kick ass. She was a professional 'til the end.

She was the last of the old-time blues singers, the great postwar singers who made their mark in the late '40s and early '50s.

Adams is survived by her daughter, Barbara Jean Tinsley, and nine grandchildren. Her son, the Detroit doo-wop singer James Drayton, died in 2001.

RJ Spangler is a Detroit drummer and bandleader who is also Vice President of the Detroit Blues Society.

Midge Ellis Passes Away

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who commented, "Midge Ellis' life is celebrated every time someone performs jazz on our campus." WRCJ-FM music host Chris Felcyn noted, "Midge would sign off her e-mails with 'Jazz is the oil that takes the friction out of life.'"

The Michigan Jazz Festival posted this remembrance: "The Michigan Jazz Festival is saddened to note the passing January 9 of Midge Ellis — the passionate, driving force behind our success. She was beloved by Michigan's jazz community, and the love was mutual."

Midge Ellis died at the age of 90, having just celebrated that birthday. She was always a huge supporter, and guiding light in the early to mid-period years and beyond of SEMJA. At times she stood her ground with a tough love approach, but was extremely effective in getting things done, especially alongside her longtime collaborator, the late Eileen Standley. Her greatest asset was that she was fluent in speaking the language of jazz with all the musicians she knew, and could get them to agree to participate in activities others may not have been willing to.

This writer recalls many personal conversations and phone calls that were detailed and lengthy. She had so many stories to tell, and photos to back them up.

There will be no funeral, while details for her internment are pending at press time. A memorial gathering will take place at Schoolcraft College in April. There was a jazz celebration in the honor of Midge Ellis held at Shield's Pizza in Southfield on Saturday, January 17.

ABOVE: Ron Kischuk's Tartarsauce Jazz Band at Shield's leads the celebration of Midge Ellis. Chuck Shermetaro (keyboard), Gene Parker (clarinet), Ralphe Armstrong (bass), Johnny Trudell (trumpet), Kischuk (trombone), Dan Maslanka (drums)

LEFT: Midge Ellis and Buddy Rich, 1976.

712 East Ann St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1502

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